

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function, comprising:
    - an image capturing unit that captures a subject image;
    - a setting unit that sets operating parameters related to image processing performed during image capturing;
    - a resolution conversion unit that performs resolution conversion on image data of an image captured by said-the image capturing unit in correspondence to a resolution set at said the setting unit;
    - an image compression unit that performs image compression on image data converted by said-the resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set at said-the setting unit; and
    - a continuous shooting unit that performs continuous shooting of a subject image by continuously driving said-the image capturing unit, said-the resolution conversion unit and said-the image compression unit, wherein:
      - said-the resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at least at a high resolution and at a low resolution that is lower than the high resolution;
      - said-the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at least at a low compression factor and at a high compression factor that is higher than the low compression factor;

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said the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low compression factor when the resolution at said the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution; and

when said the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the resolution at said the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function according to claim 1, wherein:

an instruction unit that issues instructions to ensure that said the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor, without having to change settings for the resolution and the compression factor that have been set by said the setting unit, is provided; and

when said the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor in conformance to instructions issued at said the instruction unit.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function, comprising:

an image capturing unit that captures a subject image;  
a setting unit that sets operating parameters related to image processing performed during image capturing;

a resolution conversion unit that performs resolution conversion on image data of an image captured by said-the image capturing unit in correspondence to a resolution set at said-the setting unit;

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an image compression unit that performs image compression on image data converted by said-the resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set at said-the setting unit; and

a continuous shooting unit that performs continuous shooting of a subject image by continuously driving said-the image capturing unit, said-the resolution conversion unit and said-the image compression unit, wherein:

said-the resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at least at a high resolution and at a low resolution that is lower than the high resolution;

said-the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at least at a low compression factor and at a high compression factor that is higher than the low compression factor;

said-the resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at the high resolution when the compression factor at said-the image compression unit is set to the high compression factor; and

when said-the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit if the compression factor at said-the image compression unit is set to the high compression factor.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function according to claim 3, wherein:

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an instruction unit that issues instructions to ensure that said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said-the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor, without having to change settings for the resolution and the compression factor that have been set by said-the setting unit, is provided; and

when said-the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said-the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor in conformance to instructions issued at said-the instruction unit.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function, comprising:

an image capturing unit that captures a subject image;  
a setting unit that sets operating parameters related to image processing performed during image capturing;  
a resolution conversion unit that performs resolution conversion on image data of an image captured by said-the image capturing unit in correspondence to a resolution set at said-the setting unit;

an image compression unit that performs image compression on image data converted by said-the resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set at said-the setting unit; and

a continuous shooting unit that performs continuous shooting of a subject image by continuously driving said-the image capturing unit, said-the resolution conversion unit and said-the image compression unit, wherein:

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said-the setting unit is capable of setting a continuous shooting speed at said-the continuous shooting unit at least at a normal speed and at a high speed that is higher than the normal speed;

said-the resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at least at a high resolution and at a low resolution that is lower than the high resolution;

said-the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at least at a low compression factor and a high compression factor that is higher than the low compression factor;

said-the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low compression factor when the resolution at said-the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution; and

when said-the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit and said-the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit if the continuous shooting speed is set to the high speed.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function according to ~~claim 3~~claim 5, wherein:

an instruction unit that issues instructions to ensure that said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said-the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor, without having to change settings for the resolution and the compression factor that have been set by said-the setting unit, is provided; and

when said-the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting and the continuous shooting speed is set to the high speed, said-the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said-the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor in conformance to instructions issued at said-the instruction unit.

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7. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having a continuous shooting function, comprising:

an image capturing unit that captures a subject image;  
a setting unit that sets operating parameters related to image processing performed during image capturing;  
a resolution conversion unit that performs resolution conversion on image data of an image captured by said the image capturing unit in correspondence to a resolution set at said the setting unit;

an image compression unit that performs image compression on image data converted by said-the resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set at said-the setting unit; and

a continuous shooting unit that performs continuous shooting of a subject image by continuously driving said-the image capturing unit, said-the resolution conversion unit and said-the image compression unit, wherein:

said-the resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at least at a high resolution and at a low resolution that is lower than the high resolution;

said-the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at least at a low compression factor and at a high compression factor that is higher than the low compression factor;

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said the image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low compression factor when the resolution at said the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution; and

when said the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution regardless of the resolution set at the setting unit and said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor regardless of the compression factor set at the setting unit.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera having continuous shooting function according to claim 7, wherein:

an instruction unit that issues instructions to ensure that said the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor, without having to change settings for the resolution and the compression factor that have been set by said the setting unit, is provided; and

when said the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, said the resolution conversion unit performs resolution conversion at the low resolution and said the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor in conformance to instructions issued at said the instruction unit.